[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

(*c*) whether a recognition of the evils of the supply and sale system by an individual contractor was not the cause of the revival of the Government sales in the above depôt; and

(*d*) whether the salt concerned has been analysed with a view to see whether it is fit for human consumption, and if not, whether the Government will be so good as to order such analysis?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Government are not aware of the introduction of the monopoly system in the Trivandrum Depôt at any time.

(*b*) The system of storage and sale of salt by Government was restored in the depôt from the 1st Vrischikam, 1097, as it was found that owing to the closure of the depôt the price of salt in Trivandrum had risen.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

(*d*) Only salt fit for human consumption is sent to the depôt for sale.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was the system that prevailed in the Port Depôt, Trivandrum, before the present system of sale and storage was restored in 1097?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The old system was stopped in Makaram 1095.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With reference to part (*g*) how was it tested?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Excise Commissioner has satisfied himself.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How was it tested? If so, when and where?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): This has been answered at a previous session, when it was stated that the salt was tested by the Chemical Examiner.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My question is how it was tested.

PRESIDENT: It has already been answered.

Salt Manufacture.

63. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the area under salt cultivation up to the end of 1093 and up to the end of 1098, respectively;

(*b*) the increase in the output of salt during these five years;

(*c*) what the average yield per acre is;

(*d*) whether there is no scope for the further development of the salt industry in south Travancore;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(*e*) whether Government propose making any experiments to see if salt can be manufactured in the Kayankulam and other backwaters in central and north Travancore;

(*f*) whether the Government are aware that salt used to be manufactured in Kayankulam before;

(*g*) whether, even if the salt that can be manufactured there is not of superior quality, it cannot be used for fish-curing and manurial purposes; and

(*h*) whether transport and other charges will not be greatly reduced on the salt so manufactured?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The area under salt cultivation at the end of 1093 was 380·08 acres, and at the end of 1098, 427·81 acres.

(*b*) For the years 1093 to 1097, the member is referred to the Administration Reports for those years. The increase in 1098 was 1,32,119 maunds as compared with 1097.

(*c*) 1,300·28 maunds in 1098.

(*d*) Yes, at the Rajakkamangalam *allom* when the protective works at the bar are completed.

(*e*) The past experience of Government shows that there is nothing to be gained in making further experiments.

(*f*) Yes, till 1040 M. E.; but the salt produced there was of a very inferior quality.

(*g*) It cannot be used for fish-curing; and, in the opinion of Government, it would not pay to produce it for manurial purposes. But Government have no objection to private persons manufacturing salt from the backwaters of central and north Travancore, subject to the Salt Regulation and the rules thereunder.

(*h*) This question does not arise in the light of the answer to part (*f*).

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With reference to part (*e*), when were the experiments made, by whom, what was the nature of the experiments and what the results?

PRESIDENT: The answer is that the past experience of Government shows that there is nothing to be gained in making further experiments.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I want to know when these experiments were made, where these experiments were made, by whom, and the nature of those experiments.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): By various private persons up to 1040 M. E.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With regard to (*g*), was it ascertained after experiments?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): By whom and when? *Laughter.*)

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is what the Excise Commissioner says. If further information is needed, it requires notice.

Land Customs Regulation.

64. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when the Land Customs Regulation was passed;

(*b*) whether any rules under the Regulation have been framed as yet;

(*c*) if they have not been framed, how the Regulation is being worked; and

(*d*) whether a special officer was not deputed to Madras to acquaint himself with the rules and the working of the Regulation in Madras, and if so, when?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Land Customs Regulation was passed in 1091. No rules, notifications, forms, *etc.*, have yet been published under the Regulation except rules under Section 13 relating to licenses for the storage of dutiable goods at or near the frontier for sale. With a view to remedy the defect, Mr. T. V. Ramakrishna Aiyar, Assistant Excise Commissioner, was entrusted, in 1097, with the work of drafting the rules, notifications, *etc.*, under the above Regulation. He was permitted to visit Madras, Pondicherry and British Cochin to study the working of the Customs Rules in the Customs houses in those places and to prepare and submit draft rules for the approval of Government. He has accordingly submitted them to the Excise Commissioner who is scrutinising them before submission to Government.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My question in part (*c*) has not been answered. How is the Regulation worked?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): With the help of the rules framed under section 13. They are the only rules so far framed. There are also the provisions of the Regulation and with their help the law is worked at present.

Private Practice of Medical Officers.

65. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is true that medical officers who treat well-to-do private patients and receive big fees from them give them medicines from hospitals, when they can afford to buy medicines from outside?

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